



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

AUG 23 2016

P.O. Box [REDACTED]
Stanton, Missouri 63079

Ex. 6

Dear [REDACTED]

In a letter I sent to you on June 10, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acknowledged that the trichloroethylene concentrations in the air within the front portion of Meramec Caverns were below levels of health concern. Based on the lower concentrations, the EPA supported reopening the front portion of the caverns for tours while mitigation activities were ongoing in the back portion of the caverns.

Since June 10, 2016, the additional mitigation activities have continued, and routine sampling to track the mitigation efforts has been conducted. This sampling has shown that, under your planned operating conditions, the mitigation actions have been successful in reducing the trichloroethylene concentrations below levels of health concern throughout the utilized portions of both the front and back of the caverns. Based on this data, and as stated in the email sent to you on August 5, 2016, the EPA supports the reopening of the back portion of the caverns for tours. The reopening of this portion of the caverns, in addition to the front portion that reopened on June 10, 2016, allows Meramec Caverns to operate the entire tour route that was being utilized prior to the initial closure of the caverns in March 2016.

The EPA will continue to monitor air testing results to verify that trichloroethylene concentrations remain below levels of health concern. If at any time the air testing data indicates that trichloroethylene concentrations are not being sustained below levels of health concern, the EPA will recommend re-closure if necessary to protect human health. Since sampling has been conducted under specified operating conditions, any significant changes in these conditions will need to be tested to ensure that the revised conditions do not raise trichloroethylene levels above health concern.

We appreciate your continued cooperation as we move forward with compliance monitoring within the caverns. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Tonya Howell via e-mail at Howell.Tonya@epa.gov or via phone at 913-551-7589.

Sincerely,

Mary P. Peterson
Director
Superfund Division

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Superfund

cc:

Ex. 6